

BCM

A Belgian J-Culture Magazine

Nr 28: July - August - September 2016

the renovation of

NeGed

Interviews

Muddy Apes

DJ SiSeN

Satsuki

NiA

Fashion & features

Nautical J-fashion

Disney J-fashion



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Back cover: Muddy Apes

Photography: Provided by Warner Music Japan

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Disney fashion feature:

Models: Babs Barning, Gaëtane De Waele, Steven DLP, Hilde Heyvaert, Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen and a girl we met at Micro Antwerp Convention (who's name we forgot to ask ><)

Photography (by and provided by): Steven DLP, Hilde Heyvaert, Bert Van den Wyngaert

Nautical fashion at Under the Sea feature:

Models: Arthael, Birthe, Jo, Kitch, Kaju Kuro, Marlesa, Phoebe, Saltje, Joke Schalley, Stefania, Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen,

Photography: Hilde Heyvaert

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we can and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them.

INTRODUCTION

BCM is back for the summer, and right at the start of the summer break (if you live in Belgium at least, too! What's also back is our Japan travel feature. This edition and next features guest photography of Tokyo and surrounding areas by Sam Van den Bulck, but at the start of the new year, Helcanen will be back with her "Helcanen in Japan" features.

Speaking of features, we have a Disney fashion (not DisneyBound) feature as well as a nautical fashion one, composed entirely of amazing looks seen at Under the Sea in Amsterdam last May. A review and many more photos of said event, as well as plenty of others, are also within these pages.

And of course we have interviews, with Muddy Apes, NiA and NoGoD, and a lot more music in the form of release and concert reviews.

To top that off we have art, contests, snap pages and more!

Have an awesome summer everyone!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in chief

Cute, quirky and a little bit gothic
art and jewellery



The art of
YUKARI
www.artofyukari.co.uk
www.etsy.com/shop/ArtofYukari

DISNEY FASHION

It all started with a mouse...





Floral headpiece, Summer Tales Boutique. Frames, ebay seller. Blouse, model's own. Necklace and bracelets, offbrand. Wristcuffs, Summer Tales Boutique. Floral belt, model's own. Duffy the Disney Bear bag, Tokyo Disney Sea. Skirt, handmade by Saltje. Petticoat, offbrand. Socks, model's own. Shoes, Secret Shop.







Snapback, VANS. T-shirt, Primark London. **Tattoo**, Sharlenn Tattoo. **Everything else**, model's own.



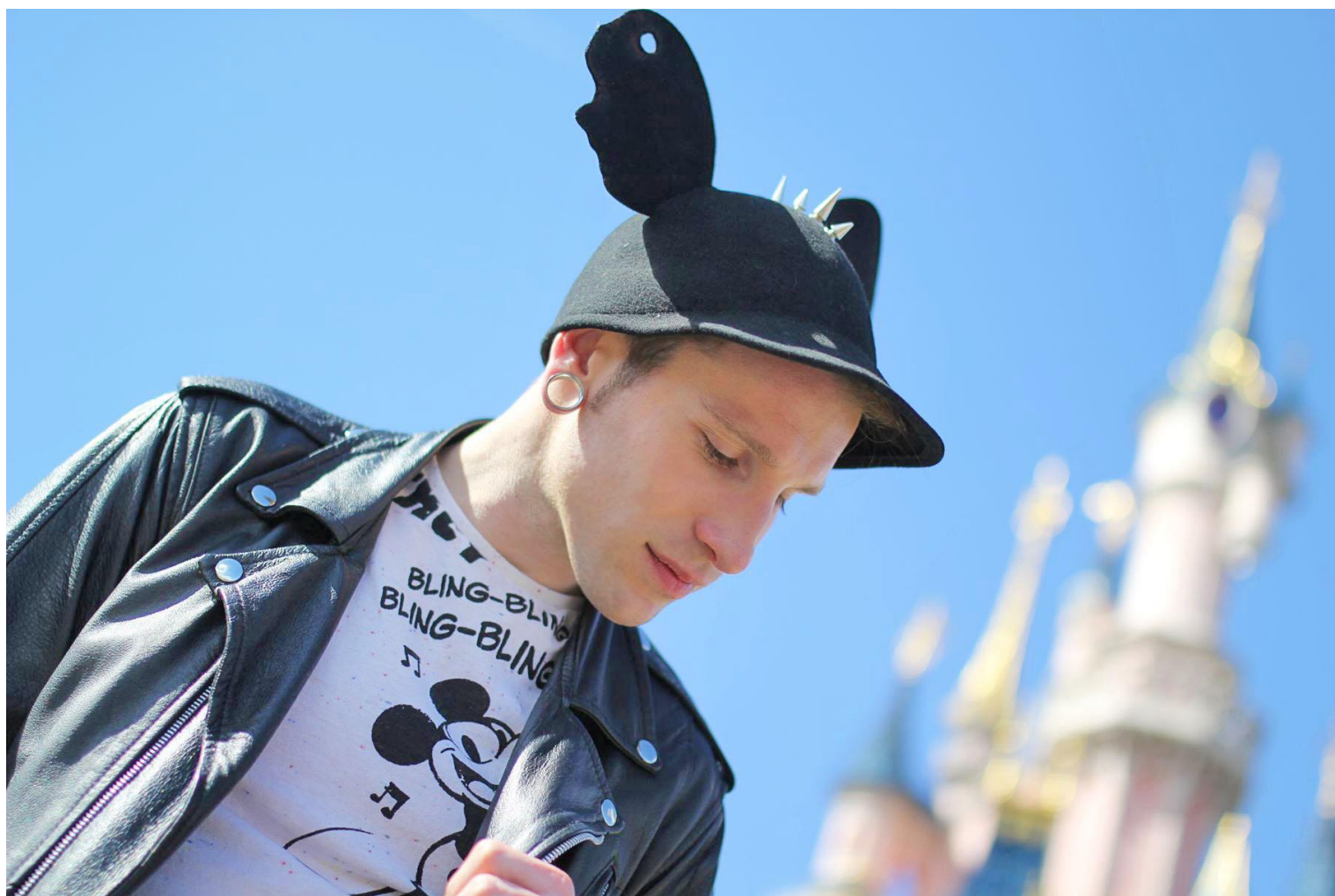
Hat, Disney Store US (Star Wars merchandise), Frames, Theo. T-shirt, Undiz. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Armor ring, Poorman's Gold Label. Lightsaber bracelet, Han Cholo. Mood ring, asos. Darth Vader sneakers, modded by Hilde. Penny farthing bicycle, Ammaco.



Snapback, VANS. T-shirt, Primark. Lanyard and pins, Disney. Slushie drink + Frozen glass, Disneyland Paris, Frozen Summer Fun merchandise. Everything else, model's own.



Flower hairclip, H&M. Frames, Theo. Shrug, ONLY. Black top, Forever 21. Key print top, Friendly Oak. Bracelets, asos, Camille et Marie, Han Cholo and Angelic Pretty. Skirt, House of Secrets Incorporated. Mismatched socks, Disney Store (Monsters Inc merchandise). Shoes, Sacha. Umbrella, Lisbeth Dahl. Totebag, Tokyo Disney Sea (Duffy & friends merchandise).



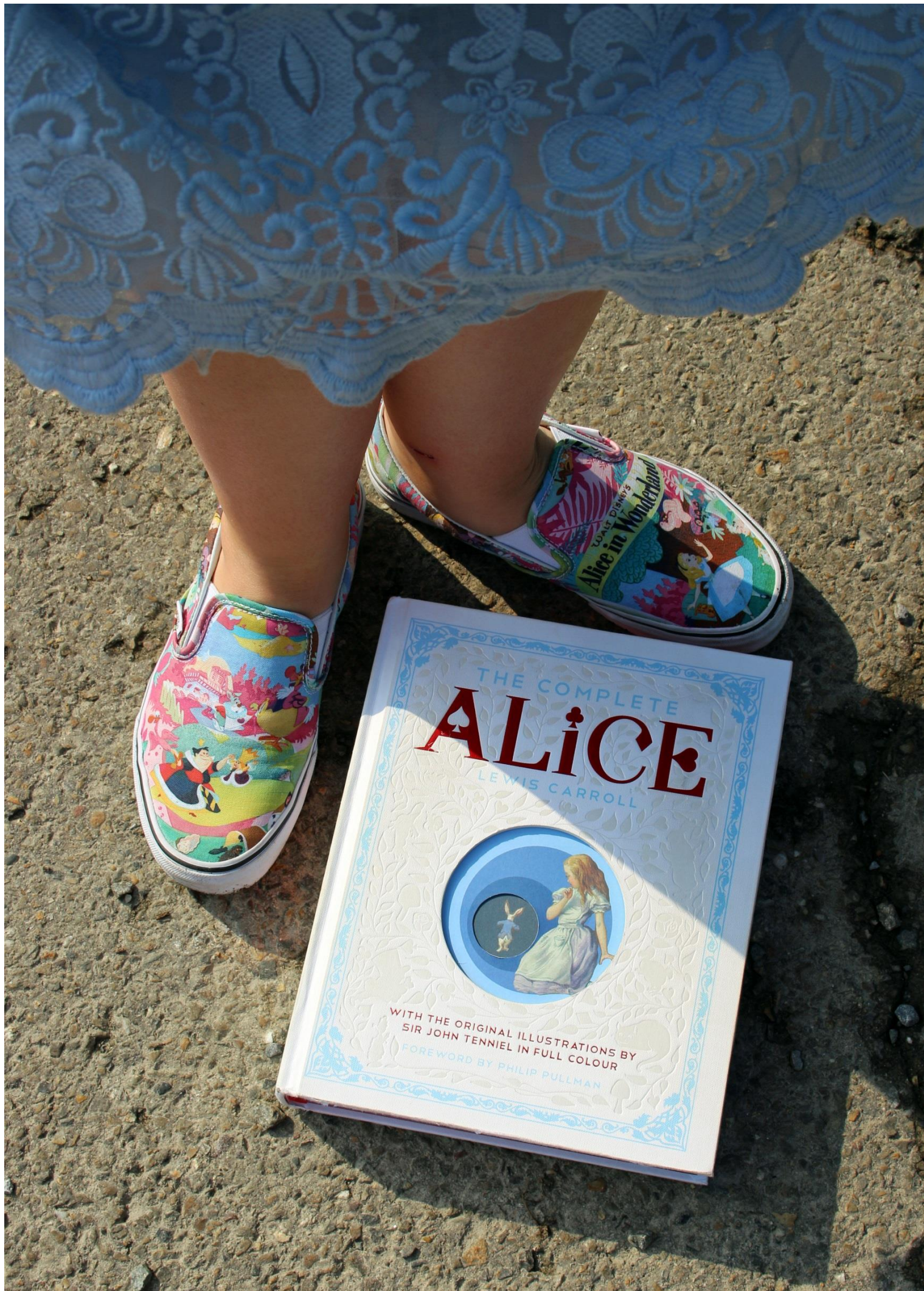


Hat, convention seller
Black t-shirt, Apple's
Jungle Book top, Primark
Shorts, H&M
Tights, VIVIESTA
Socks, offbrand
Shoes, Brako





Dress, Chi Chi London. Book, FNAC. Sneakers, VANS x Disney.



THE COMPLETE
ALICE
LEWIS CARROLL

WITH THE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS BY
SIR JOHN TENNIEL IN FULL COLOUR
FOREWORD BY PHILIP PULLMAN





Varsity jacket, Forever 21. T-shirt, Primark. Lanyard, Disney. Sneakers, Nike. Everything else, model's own.

VISIT GHENT!

We at BCM often receive questions of what parts of Belgium and Europe are good to visit. We aren't travel agents, but we can make recommendations! So in this feature we will focus on a European city. This edition: **Ghent** in Belgium - visit.gent.be

The way we like to describe Ghent is: all the beauty of Bruges, but so much more alive. Ghent has it all: monuments, musea, gorgeous architecture, shops, conventions, nightlife and tons of quaint and awesome bars and cafes.

If you visit Belgium, you simply have to stop by Ghent.
Also Gentse Feesten in July, that street festival is legendary!

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



View on Ghent architecture/rooftops from the Gravensteen.



Once the weather picks up, you can find horse drawn street cars and carriages all throughout the inner city, alongside the public transport traditional trams.



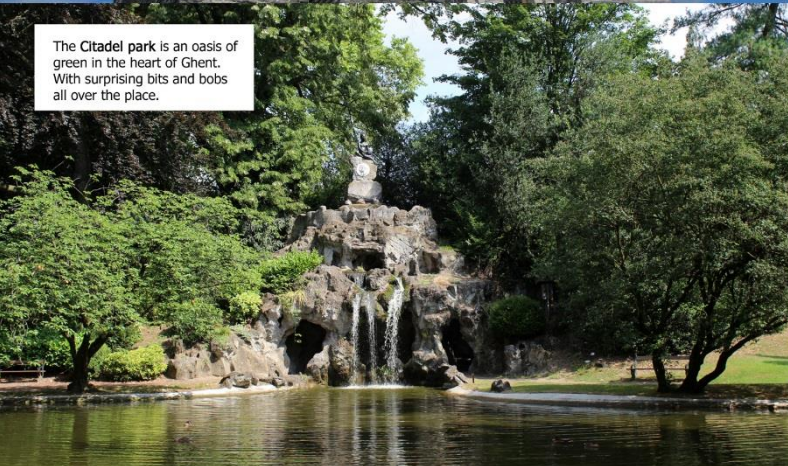
One of the many cool and original cafes in Ghent.



The Gravensteen fortress. One of the most famous sights of Ghent.



Ghent is a canal town, so you can not only go for a boat ride on the water, but also enjoy many waterfront cafes, restaurants and events.



The Citadel park is an oasis of green in the heart of Ghent. With surprising bits and bobs all over the place.



Ghent is home to many amazing museums. The S.M.A.K. with its interesting wall, is one of them.

GAME CHANGERS

MOMU/UNIQLO MOMU SUNDAYS

March 18 - August 14 2016, Antwerp fashion Museum (MoMu), Antwerp, Belgium

Game Changers, the Antwerp Fashion Museum's (MoMu for short) current main exhibit, focusses on the evolution of the 20th century silhouette in high fashion. On top of that it collaborates with **UNIQLO** for the **UNIQLO MOMU SUNDAYS**, allowing free entry for everyone on every first Sunday of the month (*May and June have already passed, but you can still go on July 3rd and August 7th*).

Incidentally, every 1st Sunday of the month is also a shopping Sunday in Antwerp, which comes in handy as you get a coupon for a free **UNIQLO airism** t-shirt with your entry ticket (which you need to pick up at the front desk of the MoMu) that you need to exchange within 7 days. Just an FYI, it's until stock lasts and women get a sleeveless top and men a t-shirt, both are white. It's a really nice touch, because airism is pretty amazing, and who doesn't like free stuff?

Now back to the actual exhibit.

Like pretty much every other MoMu exhibit, this one is pretty small. Even if you read every single thing and study every garment on display, you'll be in and out within the hour. It is debatable whether or not such a small exhibit is worth the entrance fee, but with the free days, that's a bit of a moot point. In any case, small as it may be, they did a great job making it varied. Focusing on several key points when it comes to 20th century fashion, they set up installations showing many different examples. It's easy to move around between them, and you can really take your time looking at every piece on display. It's very well presented in general, and the garments chosen are very representative. The downside of the presentation is you can't always see the entire garment, but if you are into fashion and the evolution thereof, it's definitely worth checking out. Especially as there are still two days left to do it at no cost at all.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.





Event: Coalescaremonium
What: Grand virtuoso Gothic happening
When: April 2 2016
Where: Bouche à Oreille,
Etterbeek Belgium
Ticket price: depending on the formula.
Website: www.coalescaremonium.info

Despite the recent terrorist events in Brussels making it hard(er) for people to get into the city. As well as pretty late timed necessary changes to the program, Coalescaremonium once again established that, at the moment, they are the premiere, family friendly, Gothic event that Belgium has to offer as none of these misfortunes stopped them from putting on a great show.

Coalescaremonium is an event that insists on re-inventing itself, even if it means that the organisers are making things difficult for themselves. This means that every event is a learning curve, and that sometimes things go wrong, but that's ok, because they're quick on their feet and even with delays and chaos at the food stand, the event WORKS. You see smiling faces everywhere, even a couple of kids swarming the crowd, having just as good a time as the adults.

No edition is the same as the year before. Sure, some elements keep returning: like the fashion, the photo booth, the ever expanding range of food on offer (also catering to vegetarians and vegans), a wide array of drinks (including organic juices); alcoholic and non-alcoholic alike, shops, the guarantee of a good time and a comfy place to sit and rest for a second. And that's a good thing, because these are things a great event, like Coalescaremonium, needs. They are the things people count on and keep on coming back for, year after year.

Yet aside from that very successful formula, they go with a theme, and run with it. In such a way that it is clearly present but not overpowering nor mandatory. Something new and surprising each year, combining the parts we all know and love with something completely different, making each edition special and unique in itself.

This year's Coalescaremonium, Art Nouveau Noise, was all about live performances, from bands, DJs, dancers, art on display, to a fashion show. You name it, they had it. Sure, the switching between the main room and the chapel could have gone better, and on a "normal" event people would have been pretty darned annoyed with how things went, but at Coalescaremonium people mostly took it in their stride because everyone, by now, knows that it won't happen again. That this too will be treated by the organisation as something to learn from and improve on. As a side note, aside from a few returning guests such as *DJ SiSeN* and *DJ Alchemy*, most artists were unique to the event, several even played a Belgian stage for the very first time. This is yet another testament to how serious Coalescaremonium takes their originality, and to their dedication to put up an amazing and unique event.

Sure, Coalescaremonium tickets aren't cheap at € 35 in pre-sale and € 40 at the door, but you get a versatile event that lasts from 3 pm to well after midnight for that price. If you look at the sheer run-time of the event and the program, the price quickly becomes worth it. Because you do get a lot of value for your money. Added to that, drinks and food don't cost an arm and leg. And if you, for dietary reasons, would have to bring your own food, it wouldn't be an issue either.

Unlike many Gothic events, Coalescaremonium is there to cater to the scene in general, to everyone that wants to have an awesome time, hang out with friends and meet new people. And it shows. There's no business of showing up simply to prance around and be seen, people come dressed in the style they like best, and you end up with with an amazing array of genres within the subculture: ranging from Victoriana, cyber, historical dress, Japanese fashion styles (and not just Gothic lolita) and even steampunk and dieselpunk. Coalescaremonium welcomes them all equally, making it one of the most open-minded, friendly and warm events to find yourself at. Even perfect strangers will be enjoying themselves together at a section of the event. Rather than just an event, this is rapidly becoming one big, happy, family that keeps on growing every year.

It's always the question what they'll do next, and how on earth they're going to top themselves in that edition. We definitely are curious to see what they will choose to do in 2017!

Review and photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.





Photographic impressions of COALESCAREMONIUM: ART NOUVEAU NOISE

Saturday, April 2 2016; Bouche à Oreille, Etterbeek, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of DAPPER DAY IN DISNEYLAND PARIS

Saturday, April 16 2016; Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography by and provided by Steven DLP and Alizée Ziani.



EVENT REVIEW: Under the Sea, main event



Event: Under the Sea, main event
What: Street Fashion Europe's annual grand J-fashion gathering
When: May 7 2016
Where: Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Ticket price: depending on the formula.
Website: <http://streetfashioneurope.doomby.com>

After having taken place in London in 2014 (Enchanted) and Paris last year (La Vie en Rose), Street Fashion Europe decided to host their annual international J-Fashion event in Amsterdam. And a great choice it was, because not only is Amsterdam a beautiful city, it offers a wide range of transport, making it easy to travel to.

This year's theme was *Under the Sea*, a motive that allowed for a lot of creativity for those who wished to go the extra mile in coordinating their outfits. Please note that the BCM crew visited the event on Saturday only and therefore did not attend the tea party, which was hosted the day after. This review is thus solely about the main event.

The venue in which the event was held looked wonderful: the *Royal Tropical Institute* made for a very elegant backdrop for this international meeting. The vendor booths were evenly spaced, and a separate (and thankfully air-conditioned, as the weather was atrociously hot that day) theatre hall was used for the planned program. It was always accessible so people desiring to cool off for a little, or simply rest, could make use of the comfortable chairs to relax for a moment.

My only complaint would be that the cloakroom was unguarded, which is a bit of a let-down at an event at which shopping and showing off outfits are popular activities.

VIP ticketholders were allowed to enter the venue one hour early to pick out the best deals at the shopping booths. They also received a beautiful aqua totebag with goodies, made especially for the event. GA (general admission) tickets were a little cheaper, and

came with 11 am entrance and without gift bag. Aside from that, there were no differences in the event and everyone could enjoy everything alike. The program was handed out at participants upon arrival, as well as a flyer explaining the rules of the treasure hunt, a fun chase people could participate in if they felt like it. That was definitely a nice touch. The organisation had also provided a little map and list of addresses of nearby restaurants and supermarket beforehand, so it was very easy to get food and refreshments (home brought food and drinks could not be consumed on the premisses, drinks were sold at the venue, food was not) without having to leave for lengthy stretches of time. It also came in extremely handy whilst going out for the hour long lunch break.

Under the Sea hosted quite an impressive list of guests, who all came together to organise an abundance of fun events.

Mari Nakamura, the lead designer of the brand *Juliette et Justine*, attended and made sure her brand was well-represented during the fashion show. She was joined in this venture by *Akira*, a long time model for *Gothic&Lolita Bible* and *KERA*, and *Ayumi Watanabe*, the owner of the popular brand *RoseMarie seoir*.

Kawaii Ambassador *Kimura U* performed at the event and doll artist *Koitsukihime* attended as well. *Mariko Suzuki*, who's particularly known as the ex-editor-in-chief of *Gothic&Lolita Bible* and *KERA*, offered us a fascinating and unique view at the history of lolita fashion during her lecture on this topic. She was followed by the famous kimono designer *Mamechiyo*, who showed off her stunning designs during the last fashion show of the day. The hairstyling for these fashion shows was provided by Belgian hair stylist *Julia Lion Hair*. The day ended with a raffle, as is a long standing J-fashion event tradition.

All in all, the program Under the Sea had in store for us proved to be worthwhile for any aficionado of Japanese fashion.

It was wonderful to see so many creative outfits and amazing, hand-made accessories at this Street Fashion Europe event. The majority of the attendees, who had come from all over Europe and even beyond our continent, had clearly taken the Under the Sea theme to heart. We were joined by pirates and sailors, as well as mermaid princesses and other sea creatures alike. They had the opportunity to have their pictures taken by the official event photographers, who had positioned themselves on top of the central staircase.

All in all, Under the Sea was a worthwhile event. We had a lot of fun attending it, and we're sure we weren't alone in this. We're already looking forward to next year's edition!

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



Photographic impressions of **UNDER THE SEA** (main event)

Saturday, May 7 2016; Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.





Beautiful nautical fashion at
UNDER THE SEA











Berret, Neb aaran do. Blouse, Angelic Pretty. JSK, Innocent World. Tights, model's own. Shoes, Bodyline. Bows, Chocomint.











Seaweed and seashells hairband, handmade by Lora. Necklace, handmade with a LEGO octopus. Blouse, H&M. JSK, handmade by Lora. Shell bag, asos. Wristcuffs, convention seller. Tights, ebay seller. Socks, offbrand. Shoes, Brako anatomics. Accessories, handmade by Lora and offbrand.



Blouse, UNIQLO. Seaweed cape over shorts, handmade by Mdina. Shorts, handmade by Mdina. Tights, offbrand. Shoes, New Look.



Photographic impressions of WAVE GOTIK TREFFEN

May 13-16 2016, all throughout Leipzig, Germany.

Photography by Clara Lina Wirz.



PETIT MEET LOLITA

in photos

Sunday, May 22 2016; Liège, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Lunie (lunichan..blogspot.be)



Photographic impressions of the 10th anniversary of the **ROLE PLAY CONVENTION**

May 28 and 29 2016, Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany.

Photography by, and provided by Clara Lina Wirz.



EVENT REVIEW: Summer Tales Boutique tea party



Event: Sparkly Stars at Summer Sky
What: J-fashion tea party
When: May 29 2016
Where: Summer Tales Boutique headquarters, Houten, the Netherlands
Ticket price: depending on the formula.
Website: <http://summertalesboutique.com>

Those who have attended one of *Summer Tales Boutique's* tea parties in the past will know why this one sold out in about two hours' time, which is isn't much slower than *Under the Sea's* general admission main event tickets really.

Just like every edition, this tea party had a theme, too: "*Sparkly Stars at Summer Sky*".

The theme, however, was only mandatory if you want to participate in the outfit competition. Nevertheless, you could see quite a few people that weren't in the competition sporting stars, moons and constellations, showing their own take on the theme.

Katie Zomer, designer and proprietor of Summer Tales Boutique, had once again done a splendid job putting together an afternoon program, featuring a presentation of new store items, both of her own label as well as brands she represents such as *Innocent World*.

Aided by her friend Malou, mother Andrea and boyfriend Ruben, they put together a veritable high tea feast, keeping in mind people with special dietary needs, vegetarians and vegans. With the amount of food they presented and unlimited tea, of which they had an amazing selection, including several organic options, or water, no one was hungry or thirsty. Aside from the high tea, there was ample time to browse the store and do some shopping, but also to take photos. Knowing not everyone owns a good camera, Katie had calculated in a time slot to take the outfit shot of every attendant that wished to have their photo taken, a definite bonus to the event.

The outfit competition once again consisted of five participants, pre-chosen by Katie, who introduced themselves and presented their outfit for the other guests gathered. A nice touch with this competition is that every participant wins something, and that

literally everyone can participate. It doesn't matter whether or not your outfit is handmade, offbrand, taobao brand, *Bodyline* or actual Japanese brand. As long as you are creative with the theme you stand a chance to take part.

Like is tradition with pretty much every J-fashion event, there was also a raffle with tons of fun prizes. The main prize was the new Innocent World book and bag set.

Once again, Summer Tales Boutique's team put up a fantastic event, full of fun things to do, friends to hang out with and new people to get acquainted with in a cozy and friendly atmosphere that was both warm (literally so upstairs in the venue) and open-minded.

You could see all kinds of styles of lolita, and if you wanted to wear another Japanese style, you'd have been just as welcome.

For € 10 general admission fee, you get a lot of value for your money, and the more expensive VIP ticket with goodie bag entry is definitely great value as well, considering the amount of cool stuff you get in your bag. Unlike many other event goodie bags, you may not get a nifty looking canvas tote, but you do have the option to choose between sweet, gothic and classic, so you are sure to receive things (more) suited to your own personal style for sure.

The only downside to the event is that the afternoon went by far too soon, and we look forward to the winter edition already!

Review Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Ruben (group shot).



Photographic impressions of Summer Tales Boutique's

SPARKLY STARS AT SUMMER SKY

Sunday, May 29; Summer Tales Boutique headquarters, Houten, The Netherlands.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Ruben (group shot).

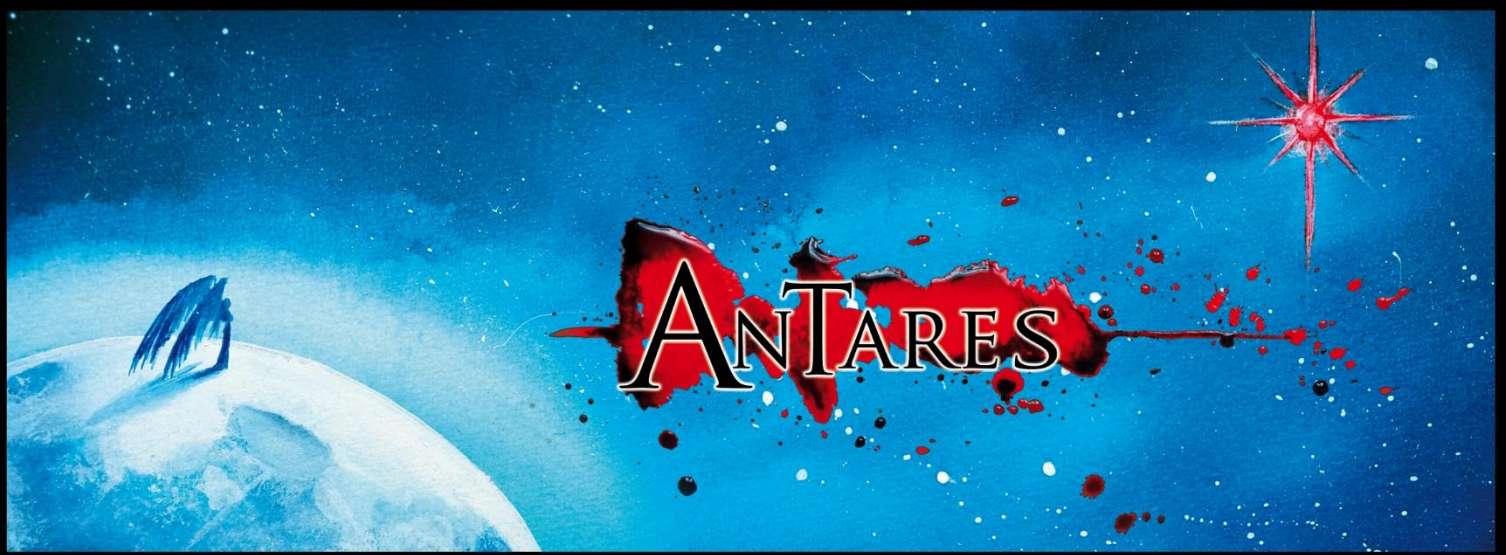


Photographic impressions of MICRO COMIC CON

Sunday, June 19 2016; Café The Joker, Antwerp, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.







Sam in the land of the rising sun

Sam van den Bulck lives in Belgium, but moved to Tokyo, Japan
for 6 months to study Japanese.

On his wanderings through Tokyo and the rest of the country, he took a ton of
photos and kept a blog (samvdjapan.blogspot.be).

Some of these photos he's sharing with us in two features.

Part two is coming in next edition.



fuji-q highlands

A fun theme park in Hakone



Fuji-Q Highlands:
home to legendary rollercoasters, one of the world's largest haunted building attractions
(a hospital in this case) and Evangelion World.

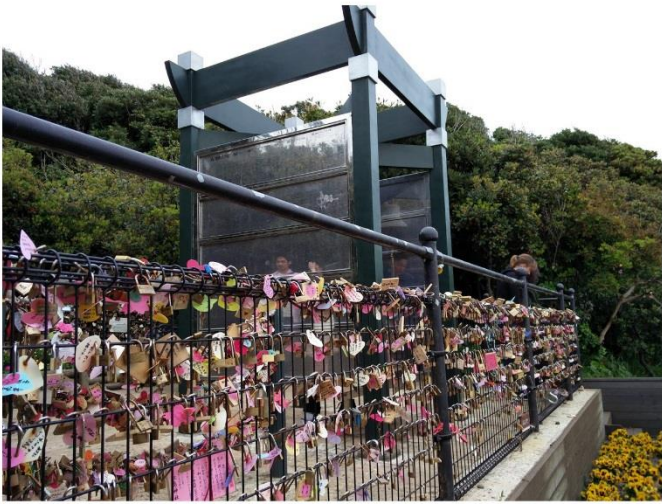


Kamakura

and surrounding areas





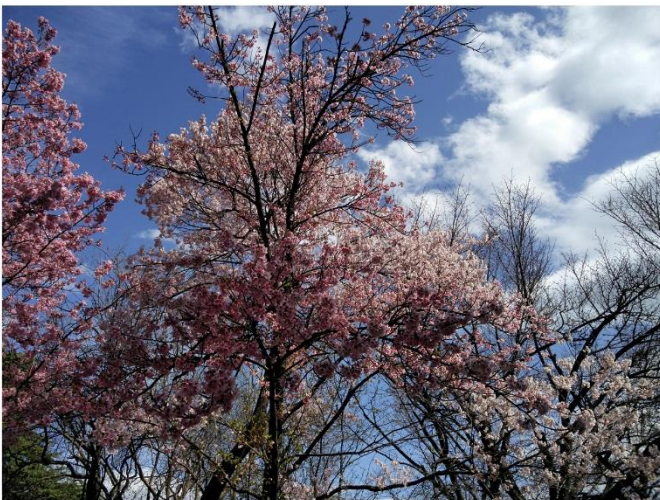




Nikko







Sakura



food.
food



... and more food!



"Mesmerising J-pop electro... more
inventive than anything on SyFy right now!"
- VICE.com

CRYSTAL LAKE

"EXTREME METALCORE OUT OF TOKYO" - MTV IGGY



UNDYING

NEW SINGLE 04.27 RELEASE

THEGAZETTE



KICK ARSE MUSIC FROM JAPAN

J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Charlotte Ruddick and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



BAND-MAID
"Brand New Maid"
Full album
Genre: hard rock

Japanese all girl rock band *BAND-MAID*, known for their powerful music and authentic maid outfits, have just signed with *JPU Records* for their first international release for their latest album "Brand New MAID". This special version of their CD gets an extra track, so not only are you avoiding customs fees, you get more music and English translations of the lyrics too. All those fun extras aside, it is a CD well worth getting if you love good solid female vocals and most excellent hard rock music! Those other reviewers weren't lying when they said this is a band to watch.

BCM favourite track: LOOK AT ME



ElüpiA
"Clock O' Desert"
Full album
Genre: symphonic metal

Japans' premiere symphonic metal band ElüpiA is back with a new 10 song full album, and they've still got it. Often enough, symphonic metal isn't all that symphonic, but not with this band, who has music and the vocals to give a whole new definition to the term. If opera was metal, it would be ElüpiA, no doubt about it. Some songs even downright sound like they belong in an opera, rather than in on a metal CD. Every album by this band tells a story, and Clock O' Desert tells me I'd love to hear more from them!

BCM's favourite track: Here We Go



Lyrical school
"RUN and RUN"
Single
Genre: pop mix

You may have seen their much talked about debut MV, you may never have heard about them, but if you love Hip Hop, Rap and Jpop mixed in all together in a fun and quirky musical combo, you should definitely check out Lyrical school's debut if you haven't already! Their 6 song, even two songs are industrial versions of others on this release, debut single definitely put them straight on the map. Even though Run and Run only counts 4 tracks so to speak, it's enough to introduce this 6 girl band as musical players to watch, as if they keep on going down this track, they could be very big globally. Especially considering it's easy to get them outside of Asia thanks to London based JPU Records!

BCM's favorite track: RUN and RUN



Molice
FIVE
"EP"
Genre: eclectic rock

Japanese eclectic rock ensemble Molice is here with their latest release: the EP FIVE. And lo and behold it is good. FIVE holds 7 fun, retro style tracks that are fresh and energetic, making you want to get up and dance. It's coming near to the fabled surf rock of old, but never quite there, because Molice may be influenced by the past, they maintain their own particular style and sound, and that's what makes this such a cool band and EP! A must have for fans of the genre!

BCM's favorite track: Hearts Up



Muddy Apes
"Faraway so Close"
Full album
Genre: rock

Muddy Apes is back with their third full album, and again it is a musical gem. Eleven tracks of everything we've come to know and love this international all-star band for, full of varied rock with that typical Muddy Apes sound. On Faraway so Close you can hear the personalities of each member, and it's clear the band's sound has matured without losing that exuberance that made us love them in the first place. If summer has a rock soundtrack: Faraway so Close is it.

BCM's favourite track: Red Moon





NiA
"1 to U"
 Full album
 Genre: speedmetal

NiA just toured Europe with *HIGHFeel/REALive* during April, and this is the full album released for that tour specifically. But don't worry, you'll still be able to buy it via the HIGHFeel online store, if you couldn't get it on tour and still want a copy. NiA's own particular brand of Jrock definitely isn't for everyone, it's kind of a "love it or hate it" band when it comes to that. So consequentially, *1 to U* is that kind of album also. If you love super fast paced, almost metal or hardcore like J-rock, NiA is possibly a band to check out if you don't mind a bit of a musical gamble as *1 to U* may be your thing. Within their own genre this is an ok band, but neither original nor exceptional. On top of that their music just isn't the most accessible. So this is definitely not the best release we heard for this edition.

BCM favourite track: *DAMAGE*



NoGoD
"Renovate"
 Full album
 Genre: metal

NoGoD is back with an album full of renovated, previously unreleased tracks. And what a renovation it is. It's fun, varied, and takes you through an 11 song history of the band with strong guitar riffs, *Dancho's* melodious vocals and skilled compositions. And for those that don't want to bother with importing: the album is available digitally in Europe (and worldwide) via JPU Records!

BCM's favourite track: *VAMPIRE*



PLASTICZOOMS
"Veiled Eyes"
 Single
 Genre: New Wave

This 3 song single was released for the band's recent EU tour, and contains 2 tracks and 1 remix. Each is electronic New Wave that takes you back to the 80s when the genre ruled supreme within many subcultures. Many fans of the genre will no doubt rejoice at listening to a band like *PLASTICZOOMS*, bringing back a musical style that is mostly forgotten. The only regret with this single is that one song is a remix, whereas three original songs would have been a better choice.

BCM's favorite track: *Synesthesia*



SPYAIR
"4"
 Full album
 Genre: rock



SPYAIR is back with their latest album, and when you hear it, it is no surprise they recently sold out their Paris concert. On *4* the band continues on their signature sound with vim and vigour. Which is both great for the fans who love it, and for people just getting acquainted with the band. SPYAIR isn't just J-rock, SPYAIR is J-rock with a unique, identifying sound that sets them apart from other bands in the genre, not just within Japan. A sound they keep building on and perfecting. *4* is once again perfect proof of that. Also available in Europe via *JPU Records*, with bonus tracks and a special booklet just for their European edition!

BCM's favorite track: *Firestarter*

Shopping Japanese music in the EU

Just a little FYI people, don't let the Brexit stop you from shopping with JPU Records. At this point nothing has changed, and if you're in the EU shopping with them is still guaranteed customs free. In fact, with the £ dropping, you could do some awesome deals on excellent Japanese music!

Find them at www.jpurecords.com



Once upon a Poem 2
 Helcanen & Karolina Pacan
 Indiegogo campaign:
8th June to 7th August 2016
 Release date: 21/10/2016
 At Metal Female Voices Fest XIII
www.facebook.com/onceuponapoem
www.helcanen.be



DJ SiSeN

Coalescaremonium, Art Nouveau Noise

Bouche à Oreille

Etterbeek, Belgium

Saturday, April 2 2016

DJ SiSeN is an annual performing guest at Coalescaremonium, and one that always lures several visitors of the event to the room he is DJing in.

This edition was no different, even though his afternoon slot was slow to draw dancing action from people attending, but once it got going, it didn't stop 'till the end. Even though he did something different and went back to the early days of his DJ career, musically at least, his style definitely struck home judging by how happy people were that attended his Coalescaremonium set.

Photographic impressions of **NIA LIVE IN PARIS**

Sunday, April 17, 2016; Le Klub, Paris, France.

Photography by Kiyu.



Photographic impressions of the EU tour of **PLASTICZOOMS**

May 20 - 29 2016.

Photography by Tiny Callens, Stefanie Klawitter (Saki Violet), Martyna Łukomska, François Noblecourt and Aurélie Vandecasteele.



Two new releases, a near three month tour in Europe, a new MV and another MV recording.
Satsuki has been extremely busy in our side of the world.
We caught up with him after his tour to talk about what drives him and his recent projects.

You've just released your new works: *APOCALYPSE* and *ECLIPSE*. What was your biggest inspiration for these?
I wanted to challenge myself and give my real emotions to the audience.

The style of your music is very different on both releases. What was your main goal by splitting them up rather than to release one album?
ECLIPSE is more Jrock/Visual kei style and *APOCALYPSE* is more into progressive metal style. As you said the style is very different on both releases. We wanted coherence for the listeners, that's why we split them up.

For *APOCALYPSE* you collaborated with Belgian composers *Enos is Back* from Liège. How did you come to work together with them?
My management *Too Wild* introduced me to them one year ago. We decided to work together at that time but we had no projects. When we decided to change the style and go for *APOCALYPSE*, we thought it was the perfect timing.

Are there any other Belgian artists you would like to work with in the future?
Stromae. He is very inspiring because he does what he wants, when he wants.

You were just on tour in Europe, Russia and the Ukraine. Your biggest so far. What is the hardest of being on tour for the better part of 3 months?
It was hard sometimes because we had no time to rest between some of the shows and also had to travel by plane every week with heavy suitcases *laughs*. The best is that I met so many different people and got new inspiration from the tour and the fans.

What is your greatest memory from touring in the EU?
My last concert in Paris on May 1st, because I could do the exhibition of my paintings and show another side of me.

Out of the new songs, which one is your favourite to perform live?
TWILIGHT from my *Luminous* album. It's one of my favourite songs.

You have also released your fashion line, *Sacred Traditional Kingdom Melody*. What is the story behind the name?
It's a tattoo that I have had on my arm for 7 years, it's also my concept to make music.

What inspires you the most when designing new fashion items?
My emotions of the moment.

What is your ultimate dream for *STKM* as a fashion brand?
Maybe to see everybody wearing my brand on the streets? *Laughs* worldwide of course!

Fashion designers often have a muse. Who is your muse?
I don't have one muse in particular, but I would say that my fans inspire me.

Find Satsuki online:

Official facebook: <http://satsuki-web.net>
Official twitter: twitter.com/Satsuki_Rociel
Official facebook: facebook.com/satsuki.rociel
Official instagram: [@satsukiofficial](https://www.instagram.com/satsukiofficial)



DJ SISEN
Destroy to
create



The amazingly stylish and talented DJ SiSeN was back in Belgium for **Coalescaremonium**, an opportunity we didn't want to miss out on.

In our annual tradition, we caught up with him to talk about what he's been doing, and what's currently going on in his life.

You are one of the best known DJs in the scene, but what exactly made you decide to become a DJ in the first place?

Well I guess it all started when I was a kid. My mum liked to watch some really strange stuff on TV with me. Horror and sci-fi, that sort of thing. And that's what inspired me. Later, during the 1990s, I was active in the dark J-rock scene in Japan. It had such a unique fashion sense and music scene, there really was nothing like it. After high school, I moved to Tokyo, but I remained a part of the scene. *Eve the new Church* in *Roppongi* was the first Gothic party I really went to regularly in Tokyo. It was in that scene I started out, because that party really inspired me to do become a DJ. Even nowadays in Japan, Goth is cuter, more like lolita fashions. I really miss the days when the style was full of properly dark atmospheres with witches and vampires.

You're doing a different kind of DJ set this year. Why the change?

I like how *Coalescaremonium* is a lot of things, rather than a purely Goth event. Normally, I play industrial and dark techno. But when I started out I did sets full of more melodious stuff with vocals. So I wanted to go back to my roots again, out of nostalgia *smiles*.

What was your biggest inspiration for tonight's set?

Female vocals. They always inspire me. I love working with female vocalists. My heart really goes out to those dark female voices and passions *smiles*.

Have you noticed any differences in the scene since your last performance in Belgium?

It's hard to say, because many that are here today have come from abroad. But it's great to see so many people from different places having fun together *smiles*.

This edition of *Coalescaremonium* is all about live performances. Who are you looking forward to seeing the most today?

To be honest, I'm just happy to come back each year and see my friends again *smiles*. That's what really makes me happy. For a moment I was worried that this year I wouldn't be able to make it, or the event would be cancelled because of the bombings in Brussels, but thankfully, everything worked out for my travel schedule and the event.

This edition is also all about Art Nouveau. Is that an art style you are familiar with?

Yes! I like it a lot! It has actually inspired a lot of Japanese art, so it is very well known in Japan. Actually, when I was a kid, it was my dream to be an art nouveau princess *laughs*.

What's your favourite art style?

It depends on how I feel. Sometimes I like destructive things. But in general I always like things that are different. For example, in the scene in Berlin, everyone wears black at the moment. I like black, but I like other colours too. So next, I want to try and mix high fashion into my style and do something totally different than what the others wear *grins*.

As always, you are looking fabulous, could you tell us a little more about your outfit?

Thank you *smiles*! I incorporated some green, which I really liked, and it's also this year's theme colour. At the same time I didn't stick too closely to the theme and made it my own. I also like to destroy things and recreate them, like my hat full of doll parts that I'm wearing tonight *grins*.

Your outfits for events are always super stylish and elaborate. So we have to ask: what do you like to wear when you are not performing?

Laughs well, I'm not nearly as well put together! In summer even, I'm nearly always naked *laughs*. And otherwise, I tend to slouch around the house wearing my pyjamas *laughs*. No seriously, I like second hand clothes a lot. And as long as they are comfy and 1980s style garments, I'm happy *smiles*.

You often collaborate with other musicians and DJ's. Who would you still like to work with in the future?

In Berlin, I am a DJ at a party called *SABBAT*. It's a dark creatives party, which is really nice to me. It's more than just a Goth party in the traditional sense. So basically, I like performing with the other *SABBAT* resident DJ's, because we inspire each other *smiles*.

Are there any events you have not performed at yet that you would still love to DJ at?

Gegen in Berlin. It's one of my favourite parties to attend. It's a good, big mix of styles and people. So I'd love to play there *smiles*.

You have performed all over the world. Which is your favourite country to perform in and why?

Chile! Because of the great memories of the people I have met there. I have made a lot of friends there and had a lot of great experiences. So I would absolutely love to go back. The same goes for Mexico, that's my second favourite *smiles*. But the country I really lost my heart to is Chile. If I had to move to another country, I would seriously consider moving to Chile!

You are also very involved in Japarañoia, could you tell us a little more about that?

It's my personal project in Berlin. I live amongst really unique Japanese artists, so I wanted to create my own dark J-party there and involve them all *smiles*!

When we first spoke two years ago, we spoke about your favorite anime. Have you discovered any awesome new anime or manga since then?

Zankyou no terror. I just watched that. It's actually pretty current because it's about terrorism. It's, thankfully, different than the current real life situation in Europe, but it's very interesting and it really makes you think. I just finished it last week.

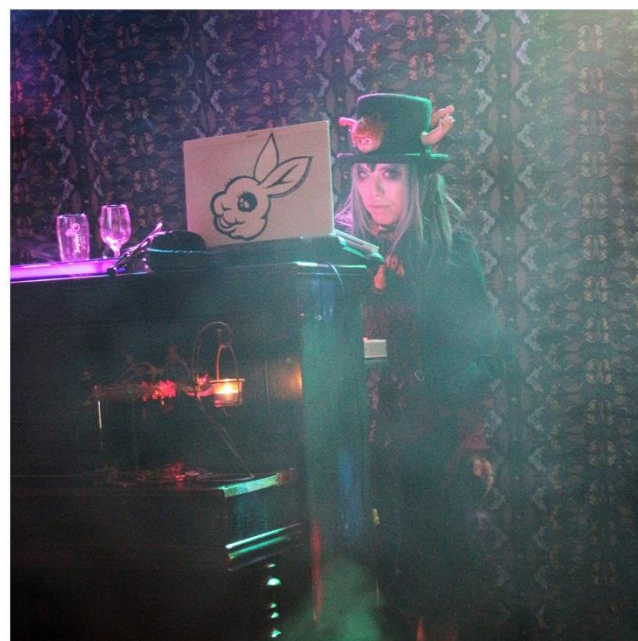
You're a big fan of cats, and are a proud cat owner. What's the best about cats?

In theory they are my flatmate's cats, but I take care of them as well so I guess they are also kind of mine. I actually never used to have cats before he got two. I even used to be a dog person! I thought cats were snobs that didn't care about the rest of the world. But now I have totally changed my mind. They are actually very friendly and caring. So now I'm happy to live with cats *smiles*.

Find DJ SiSeN online:

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/SiSeN

Official twitter: twitter.com/djsisen

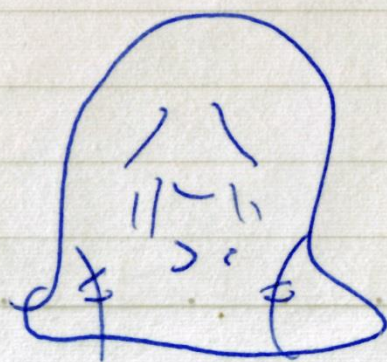


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Win a cheki signed by DJ SiSeN!

When we interviewed DJ SiSeN, we of course asked him if they would be ok with running a cheki competition for his fans, to which he happily agreed.

So dear readers, that is what one of you can win: a cheki signed by DJ SiSeN taken in April here in Belgium at Coalescaremonium.

The winner will receive one signed cheki.

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular signed cheki. You can write something, draw something, make a Photoshop collage: anything goes as long as you can send it by email and it is safe for work!

Submissions can be emailed to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

The last date for submissions is September 21st, so you still have plenty of time to come up with something!

The winner will be personally notified after the deadline* and asked for their home address so we can mail** out their cheki. Don't worry, your address stays on file with BCM, but will NOT be given to third parties, so your privacy is definitely assured!

* Please take into account that judging takes a bit of time, especially during final editing period of the next edition, so please be patient for the results as it can take a few days for them to be released. We will email everyone that submitted to let them know whether or not they won.

** We rely on regular, unsigned and thus unregistered mail to send out cheki via B-Post and we are no means responsible should the post screw up. They haven't so far and we've sent cheki all over the globe, but you never know so we like to mention this in advance. They can also take quite a while to deliver, so please be patient. Especially if you live outside of Belgium. Shipping to locations outside of Europe may take anything from a handful of days, to a couple of weeks and even a few months.





NIA

a way of thanking the fans

Earlier this year, NIA went on a tour in Europe that touched the fans and surprised many.

We caught up with them in Liège, but due to circumstances, translations had to be sorted post-interview.

And were, thanks to BCM's AWESOME translator Marie.

So dear NIA fans and followers: thank Marie for this piece!

You call your style "laugh and rough". How did you come up with that term?

Hikari (drums): Well, we wanted to mix two different meanings: the smile and the violence so it became "love and rough".

You have previously performed all over the world. How does it feel to be in Europe?

Kouhei (bass): It's the first time overseas for me. It's was kind of a dream to be able to go that far someday. So when I heard it would come true, I was both surprised and very happy. Being able to be here today made me feel even more pressure when I was on stage the day before yesterday and yesterday and I still feel that pressure today.

Hikari: It's the first time in Europe for me also. First, I would say that it is quite cold here *laughs*. No really, it's colder here than in Japan, which is quite warm this season. But, even if the weather is cold, I can feel that our audience is really hot, I get a really warm feeling from them.

Jin (guitar): Unlike the others, it's not the first time overseas for me. I've already been to Los Angeles and Taiwan, but it's my first time to Europe. As I expected, streets and houses are arranged in a really elegant way. Cities here really have this European thing, a kind of Euro taste, to them. You can take pictures anywhere, it will always look stylish to us. Today's place is quite elegant as well, you can especially feel this "taste of Europe" in Liège.

Tatsuki (vocals): When you talk about Europe, you have images of beautiful and elegant cities arranged with good taste in mind. I also like these kind of elegant and visual things so I kind of felt in love. I would also say that girls have really long legs, they look like models, they are quite cute.

The entire band laughs and agrees.

Could you tell us a little about your new CD?

Kouhei: So I'm in charge of the bass for our new song *1 to U*. That song is mostly based on Japanese rap style melodies. For the vocals we wanted to create a kind of original homemade sound. Jin also created a special mix for guitar and we tried to put all the instruments and sounds together in a very nice way.

Hikari: Actually, I composed the music for *1 to U*, but I needed the help of all the members to complete it. It took a lot of time and energy to finish it, we hardly slept and nearly got sick during the recording actually *laughs*. So we kinda have dreadful memories about that song's recording *laughs*.

Jin: There are many other songs on our new release, *1 to U*, but the title song is really one of a kind. We've never done this style before, it's like a "one color" melody. It was a challenge for us.

Tatsuki: In my opinion, *1 to U* is a nice song. It's easy to go into, it has a kind of straight forward feeling to it. I like singing it during concerts, I think it probably reaches people better during lives actually.

Jin: If I had to choose another title for that song, I would just say *KANJOU* (Translator: 感情, which means feeling, emotion).

Your first MV song release is Countdown. What are you counting down to?

Hikari: We changed our name from *ANSIA* to NIA. Thus we became NIA and so, from now on, it's a new start. That countdown we're talking about is the one about the beginning of NIA. We composed and wrote our songs with the idea of a new beginning. You can feel it in our lives as well, since we begin our concerts with Countdown, as it's the expression of a new beginning for NIA.

On Countdown you work with a guest vocalist. How did you come to work with MIKURU?

Hikari: We've actually been working with MIKURU since *ANSIA*. So when he worked with us on Countdown, it was kind of a succession of the work we already did together. When we have to compose new songs, sometimes we know exactly what we want. But sometimes, we can't properly explain what we want or find a way to express our feelings, so at that time, we asked help from MIKURU.

Of all the new tracks, which one is your favourite to perform live and why?

Kouhei: I like *Ignite*. It's usually the second song we play during lives, just after Countdown, and for me it represents all the challenges we had to face with NIA.

Hikari: *Player*. It has a more simple style, a kind of easy to understand melody that suits everything. I also like the message we want to communicate with this song. We basically say "thank you" to our fans and audiences that keep on following us, even though we changed into NIA. But, it's really difficult because I like all the songs from *1 to U* *laughs*.

Jin: It's like I have to answer with one of the songs I composed so I would say *Ignite* *laughs*. We've already played it two times here in Europe, and I saw that even our European audience enjoyed it. So I am really happy that I could create something that reaches many people.

Tatsuki: I like them all, but if I had to choose only one, I guess I would also say *Player*. I thought about this song's lyrics with great effort, maybe more than other songs. I think it is probably the one that reflects my actual situation the best.

Aside from being musicians, you are also actors and models. Which has been your favourite acting job to date?

Hikari: Me? Yes, kind of *laughs*. I would say the movie called *YUME HARUKA*. It was my first experience and it was very fun from the beginning at the auditions, then memorizing lines and finally completing it. You can't produce music and acting the same way, it's really different from each other, but I really found it to be awesome. It's like, when you're reading lines, you're reading a character's story. It is obviously not your story, so it's a bit like you are telling lies and you have to make everyone believe it is. I found that very interesting. I only played a minor role in this movie, but I really enjoyed it.

As a model, which designer would you still love to work with in the future?

Kouhei: When it comes to Japanese brands, I'd love to work with *Ju-lius*. If the sky were the limit, heck, I'd love to work with *Gucci*, too. I'm very into high fashion.

Jin: As far as Japanese brands go, I would say *kiryuyrik* (キリュウキリュウ). But their clothes are quite expensive. It would be difficult for me to work with overseas brands as I only like quite expensive and high class brands like *BALMAIN*.

Tatsuki: They've already talked about all the good brands *laughs*. I like them all, but maybe I would add *Hermes* and *Chanel*, which I especially like for their fragrances.

Hikari, you are having a birthday whilst on tour. Do you have any special celebrations planned?

I plan to visit many world heritage sites in France and Belgium. For Japanese people like us, Europe seems so far away. We had to travel across an ocean to get here. But here in Europe, you can go from one country to another so easily. It seems so unreal to us. In Japan, you can't travel to another country that easily, so it really is a big thing for us to be able to go so far and see so many things. It might feel common for most of European people, but for me it's really something special and I'm happy I can do it for my birthday.

On a closing note, pick one: beer, chocolate or waffles?

Everyone: Beer!

Jin: Maybe waffles as well *laughs*.

Hikari: Especially cherry beer: *Kriek*!

Everyone: Yes, *Kriek* is the best.

Find NIA online:

Official website: <http://nia.website>

海外のみんなが"とてもやさしかった！"

いから楽しんでくれてありがとう♪

you guys are kick ass!!
Thank you so much!

我 (i.v.)v

今日からヨーロッパに住むわ。笑

愛してるで"■ Nishikawa
Tatsuki

我

ヨーロッパに来て

とても幸せです

I will be back!

大好きです

ニハキワ
Nishikawa

ベルギーはとてもオシャレで
歩いてるだけで楽しい!!

俺たちのためにインタビュー

まで、本当にありがとう。

夢の1つが叶ったよ!!
by kochei

あ.か.あ
あ.あ.あ

Win a cheki signed by NiA!

When we interviewed NiA, we of course asked them if they would be ok with running a cheki competition for their fans, to which they happily agreed.

So dear readers, that is what one of you can win: a cheki signed by NiA taken in April here in Belgium at Le Garage in Liège. Due to a jumbled schedule and ensuing time constraints we only got one signed, but we're giving away three in total.

First prize will be the signed cheki, second and third will be a cheki that was not signed.

All you need to do is explain, in your own way, why you should win this particular (signed) cheki. You can write something, draw something, make a Photoshop collage: anything goes as long as you can send it by email and it is safe for work!

Submissions can be emailed to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com

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"something that looks
delicious is almost
always red"





NoGoD is back with a brand new album, titled *Renovate*. We spoke to singer **Dancho** and lead guitarist **Kyrie** about what this renovation means for them personally, as well as some other things; such as festivals, recording, summer survival tips and keeping shironuri makeup pristine.

Your new album is titled *RENOVATE*, in which way do you see this as a renovation of NoGoD?

Dancho: I think this album can be "another side of a best of album". To disclose NoGoD in another way than our best of album and 10th anniversary from 2010. It's emotionally pleasurable that these songs, which had never been released for 10 years, are finally completed by today's NoGoD. So they are just new songs for our listeners *laughs*. **Kyrie:** On this album there are many songs we had never released in public. Our "current" NoGoD recreates these songs instead of just re-producing and recording like we used to. So this album primarily focuses on how we *renovate* our old songs.

Renovate has a bit of everything: ballads, upbeat songs and heavy metal music. Which was the song that was the most fun to create?

Dancho: Basically, recording is not fun *laughs*. Instead of creating sounds by programming, we recorded many vocal sounds. This album has so many chorus parts. We especially enjoyed recording *IPIKAIE* with members, staffs, and our younger friends. That was a lot of fun. **Kyrie:** We find fun in producing each song. If I just talk about the recording process: we came up with many interesting ideas for *IPIKAIE* and *TOUGENKYOE YOUKOSO*.

RENOVATE's opening track is called *VAMPIRE*, which is your favourite vampire story?

Dancho: I love the fighter game *VAMPIRE* by CAPCOM. I also like the movie *Twilight* and the comic *HIGANJIMA*. Actually, *HIGANJIMA* is really crazy in many ways, so I suggest that people in Europe read it *laughs*.

Which of the new songs, is your favourite to play live and why?

Dancho: Maybe *TOUGENKYOE YOUKOSO*. There are strange swing parts and sections where people do mosh all around the floor. And I believe this song makes everybody get excited.

You are releasing *RENOVATE* in Europe via JPU Records. Does this mean we will see you guys perform live in Europe again?

Dancho: The concert at *Japan Expo* in France we did before in 2014, was wonderful! So far, tours in Europe are not scheduled, but we would love to come again. Please invite NoGoD soon, dear European event organizers *laughs*.

Kyrie: Unfortunately, there are no specific plans to tour in Europe yet. But as we promised at *Japan Expo*: we hope to return to France, and would love to visit countries in Europe where we've never been before. I know there are many difficulties involved, but our staff works hard to realise concerts in Europe, so I believe the time will come in the near future.

Your stage outfits are always amazing. Could you tell us a little about the outfits you are wearing for *Renovate*?

Dancho: "Going back to our roots" is the theme this time. Originally we used red and black as our visual motif colours when NoGoD was established. That's why we wanted this for our 11th year. To indicate "we start again".

Dancho, I nearly always see you incorporate red in your outfits, what do you love the most about red?

Well... tuna sashimi... marbled beef..., something that looks delicious is almost always red... *laughs*. I'm kidding! The real reason why I incorporate red is that my aura colour is red. Now, what I want most in red is a *Ferrari* though *laughs*.

Dancho, when we last spoke, you said that to you, Europe is a sanctuary of heavy metal music. Which places in Europe would you still like to visit, that are important for you because of heavy metal music?

I hope to visit Germany, Norway and Finland especially! But there are many wonderful bands and music in Italy, Spain, Denmark, France and the UK... I want to go to all the places in Europe *laughs*!

It's nearly summer, traditionally the time of summer festivals, are you going to any festivals as a visitor?

Dancho: I used to go to *PUNKSPRING* every year, which is a festival with mainly melodic hardcore bands. Because we often tour during the summer, I can't go to any festivals myself at all sadly. I do wish I could go to *Loud Park* this year.

If you could organise your own festival lineup with NoGoD as the headliner, which other bands would perform there also?

Dancho: Whether or not they wear makeup is irrelevant. I'd like to invite bands that catch my attention. I still feel the situation of our Japanese music scene is that each music genre is closed to different genres. They are not open to each other, compared to the situation abroad. So I'd want an event where various types of essences are mixed in the true sense.

Japan is known for its boiling hot summers. What would be your survival tips for people visiting Japan in the summer?

Dancho: There are many survival tips for summer in Japan. For instance, *Uchi Mizu*: meaning sprinkling water; eating *somen* or *hiya-mugi* noodles, watermelon, shaved ice; drinking cold *barley tea*. However, when you think it's too dangerous to be or remain outside, you should go to a convenience store nearby as the air conditioning is crazy strong there *laughs*.

Kyrie: Actually it's really hard because I still cannot stand for heat in Japan even though I actually live here. I'm just kidding, in general, taking in sufficient water and salt, and protecting your body with a parasol or hat from sunlight does the trick just fine. In Japan, many people suffer from heatstroke during summer, and you can find a lot of things to prevent that at pharmacies here, and try anything you want.

Dancho, what are your tips to keep shironuri make-up pristine during the summer heat?

Even when my makeup is perfectly applied with stage makeup tools, it is still impossible for it not to come off due to sweating a lot. So the important thing is to touch it up frequently.

Find NoGoD online:

Official website: www.nogod.jp

RENOVATE is (digitally) available in Europe via JPU Records: www.jpurecords.com/nogod-renovate

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/nogodofficial

Dancho's twitter: twitter.com/dancho_nogod

Dancho's instagram: www.instagram.com/dancho_nogod

Kyrie's twitter: twitter.com/kyrie_nogod

"Renovating our
own songs."





MUDDY APES TAKA HIROSE

Faraway so close

With Muddy Apes' third full album, *Faraway so Close*, the perfect soundtrack for summer has arrived.

The weather may not always agree with it here in Europe, but at least we've already got the tunes to match to the season. Time to find out more about the new album.

Bassist **Taka Hirose** was kind enough to take time out of his busy schedule to answer our questions about the CD, touring, and more.

Congratulations on the fantastic new album, what are your expectations for it?

Thank you! To be honest I don't know what my expectations are but we all can't wait to make some noise together again in the studio.

The album is titled *Faraway so Close*. What does that title refer to for you personally?

The title says exactly how and where our situations were. We couldn't be all together in the studio, so we decided to make this album as we usually make our demos. We sent the ideas of the songs over between the members via email. *Inoran* played the guitars at his home in Tokyo on Dean's songs, which *Dean* wrote at his home in Florida or vice versa. I myself put it all together at my home in the UK and *Maeson* recorded his vocals at his local studio in Osaka. Or something like that. We had accepted the situation and took our own responsibilities individually to work on the songs. We live far apart but have kept in touch closely between us to work on the album. So, that's why we can't wait to make some noise together again to play these tracks from the album!

The cover art is very different than what we're used to from Muddy Apes CD jackets. Could you tell us a little more about the artist and how the art came to be?



We didn't have enough time to find the artist we like and work on the design as we did before. So we needed someone who could provide us with some images for the album cover quickly. I remembered Dean's old friend *Jamie*, who helped us make the video for *Heavy Orgasm Stuff*. She herself is an artist and her apartment is full of great artistic stuff. So I contacted her and asked if she still did paintings. She

sent me some links to her work online, and I showed some I liked to the guys in the band. They all liked her style of paintings, but we couldn't decide which one we all liked. One day I saw the photo on Facebook with *Jamie*'s big Ladyfish character on a shop's wall, which was taken by her friend who just wanted to show it to *Jamie* to say "Looks great!" or something. I really liked the character in that photo. I sent the pic to the guys straight away and simply asked if they liked the character. *Inoran* was the first one to reply and said that he liked the Ladyfish character on the wall and actually liked a photo itself too because it looked like the character was given a real life on the photo. So, we suggested to *Maeson* and *Dean* that the picture itself could be good on the album cover and both of them said that they liked the idea as well. So, that was it!

You have changed labels for this album. How did this influence *Faraway so Close* and Muddy Apes as a band on the whole?

We only had a two album deal with *King Records* and had to find another deal with whoever, if we wanted to do Muddy Apes together again. As soon as *Warner Japan* came on board, they wanted us to work on the new album quickly, but we didn't have many songs around. So we had to work hard and fast to make this album. It was tough but we've done it!

The song *Red Moon* is, in parts, reminiscent of David Bowie's works. Are you big Bowie fans in the band?

That song was written by *Dean*. And yes, he loves David Bowie, but we all do.

How has his passing affected you as musicians?

It's really a shame. And sad because I don't think we will see an artist like him ever again...

When listening to the album I felt that the band's sound has matured on *Faraway so Close*. How do you feel Muddy Apes has evolved since the release of *Fairy Dirt No 5* three years ago?

Matured? Maybe!? I specially and personally suggested the guys that we should make songs we can have some fun to play with when we meet up in the studio first time after finishing this album, rather than making some music with typical song structures. Obviously, that's not for all songs, as we love pop and mellow side of Muddy Apes too. But most of the tracks on the album are quite simple and direct and I think that it shows more individual characters of ourselves.

You have a tour planned in Japan this summer, any chance you'll take Muddy Apes to Europe afterwards?

As always, we'd love to...

Could you tell us a funny anecdote of something that happened during recording with Muddy Apes?

I don't know if it's funny, but the only way we all could see and talk each other was on *Skype*. When *Inoran* was helping with *Maeson*'s vocal recording in Osaka, we decided to have a chat on *Skype* every day for a few days. *Maeson* and *Inoran* were working in the afternoon time, I had to get up at 4am, which was just before midnight for *Dean*. As *Dean* offered to help *Maeson* with some of English lyrics during the vocal recordings in Osaka, he was supposed to stay awake through the night in Florida, whilst my day was just starting in the UK. So, when *Maeson* and *Inoran* finished their work in the evening, they sent the message "today's work is done!", I replied "well done!" and *Dean*'s reply was "zzzzzz....." No reply.

It is no secret that Muddy Apes are fans of tequila. But which drink would win if you had to choose between tequila and Belgian beer?

Patron tequila. Now *Inoran* has become their ambassador and sold limited *Inoran*'s selected *Patron*! But Belgian beers are great too!

Last tours you brought out go-go dancers and afro wigs at Muddy Apes shows. What do you have planned for the fans during the "Go Apes Go!!!" tour?

Ummmmm... We'll think about it.

You're also a member of *Feeder*. What is the hardest about combining two international bands that are based on different continents?

Traveling and time difference.

You have your own cooking site about Japanese food. What kind of cuisine would you still like to cook, that isn't Japanese?

Italian.

On a closing note: summer's nearly here. What are you most looking forward to this summer when it comes to Muddy Apes?

Unfortunately, our tour finishes in the middle of July and no summer festivals are planned for us! But we'd love to come back to do some in the summer of next year...

Find Muddy Apes online:

Official website: <http://muddyapes.com>

Official facebook:

www.facebook.com/MuddyApes

Official twitter: twitter.com/MuddyApes

Official instagram:

www.instagram.com/MuddyApes

Find Taka Hirose online:

Taka's cooking site, Cook Me Japanese:

<http://cookmejapanese.com>

Taka's twitter: twitter.com/takahirose





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Film: Kodak Ektar 100 (120mm), Kodak T-MAX 400 (120mm), Kodak Ultramax 400 (35mm)

If you shoot analog, and would like to see your photo(s) in BCM, just send them in!
Photography by Murraine Därg and Hilde Heyvaert.



BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



COALESCAREMONIUM SNAP

Saturday, April 2, Bouche à Oreille, Etterbeek, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



UNDER THE SEA THEMED SNAP

Saturday, May 7, Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



UNDER THE SEA SNAP

Saturday, May 7, Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



SPARKLY STARS AT SUMMER SKY SNAP

Sunday, May 29; Summer Tales Boutique headquarters, Houten, The Netherlands.

Photography by Babs Barning and Hilde Heyvaert.



EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

July

Frozen Summer Fun
Summertime at Disneyland Paris
Date: June 4 - September 18
Venue: Disneyland Park,
 Disneyland Paris
City: Marne-la-Vallée
Country: France
www.disneylandparis.com

Harry Potter the Exhibition
Date: June 30 – summer 2016
Venue: Brussels Expo, paleis 2
City: Laeken
Country: Belgium
www.expoharrypotter.be

Japan Expo
Date: 7 – 10
Venue: Parc des Expositions
 Paris-Nord-Villepinte
City: Villepinte
Country: France
www.japan-expo-paris.com

Starcom
Date: 10
Venue: ICC
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.starcom.tv

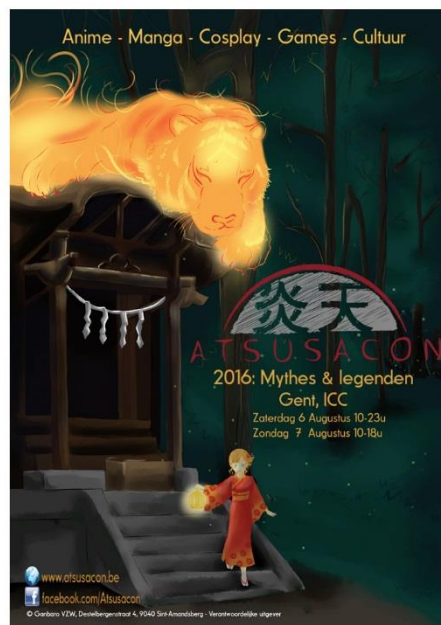
Hyper Japan
Date: 15-17
Venue: Olympia
City: London
Country: UK
<http://hyperjapan.co.uk>

Nocturnal Bloodlust
2016 European tour DeiMos
 15: Underworld, London, UK
 16: La Boule Noire, Paris, France
 17: Melkweg, Amsterdam,
 The Netherlands
 19: Headcrash, Hamburg,
 Germany
 20: MTC, Cologne, Germany
 23: KVLTP BP, Budapest, Hungary
 24: Feierwerk, Munich, Germany
www.b7klan.com

August

Castlefest
Date: 5 – 7
Venue: Castle Keukenhof
City: Lisse
Country: The Netherlands
www.castlefest.nl

Atsusacon
Date: 6 & 7
Venue: ICC
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.atsusacon.be



Elftopia
Date: 13 & 14
Venue: Kasteel Ooidonk
City: Ooidonk
Country: Belgium
www.elftopia.be

Comic Con Amsterdam
Date: 27 & 28
Venue: Rai Amsterdam
City: Amsterdam
Country: Belgium
www.amsterdamcomiccon.com

September

KAMIJO Royal weekend
 3: Royal Night: Le Pavillon Dauphine,
 Paris, France
 4: concert: La Boule Noire, Paris,
 France
www.b7klan.com

SCANDAL
European tour
 10: Melkweg, Amsterdam,
 The Netherlands
 13: Luxor, Cologne, Germany
 14: Kaiserkeller, Hamburg, Germany
 16: Firlej, Wroclaw, Poland
 17: Sneze, Wien, Austria
 18: Elyon, Milano, Italy
 20: Poste a galena, Marseille, France

21: Apolo2, Barcelona, Spain
 24: Islington Academy, London, UK
 25: La Machine, Paris, France
www.b7klan.com



October

Disneyland Paris' Halloween Festival
Date: October 1 – November 2
Venue: Disneyland Park,
 Disneyland Paris
City: Marne-la-Vallée
Country: France
<http://www.disneylandparis.co.uk/events/halloween-at-disneyland-paris>

Dapper Day at Disneyland Paris
Date: 15
Venue: Disneyland Paris
City: Marne-la-Vallée
Country: France
www.dapperday.com

Metal Female Voices Fest
Date: 21 – 23
Venue: Oktoberhallen
City: Wizee
Country: Belgium
www.metalfemalevoicesfest.be

November

MCM Comic Con Belgium
Date: 5 – 6
Venue: Brussels Expo
City: Laeken
Country: Belgium
www.mcmcomiccon.com/belgium





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WIZDOM

SKARLETT
RIOT

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Friday evening: fan meeting (+ exclusive acoustic sets)

OKTOBERHALLEN

Schrovestraat, 18 - 9280 Wieze, Belgium

INFO - PRESALES

www.metalfemalevoicesfest.be



Muddy Apes

New album *Faraway So Close*, out now!
Photograph provided by Warner Music Japan.